

EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Denison, Texas

Lesson Guide AP

High School

Overview: Political Purpose

Students will examine primary source photographs and correspondence relating to Eisenhower's 1952 presidential campaign visit to Denison in exploration of Eisenhower's presidential administration and legacy.

Advanced Placement U.S. History Themes/Learning Objectives

- American & National Identity-1.0 Explain how ideas about democracy, freedom, and individualism found expression in the development of cultural values, political institutions, and American identity.
- Politics & Power-1.0 Explain how and why political ideas, beliefs, institutions, party systems, and alignments have developed and changed.
- Work, Exchange, & Technology-3.0 Analyze how technological innovation has affected economic development and society.
- America in the World-1.0 Explain how cultural interaction, cooperation, competition, and conflict between empires, nations, and peoples have influenced political, economic, and social developments in North America.

This lesson supports Historical Thinking Skills: Analyzing Evidence, Comparison, Contextualization, Causation, Historical Argumentation and Synthesis.

Materials

- Primary source images for display/distribution
- Additional resources:
 - Eisenhower administration background summary
 - Leadership highlights timeline

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Primary Source Activity: A Local Stop on the Road to the Presidency

20 minutes

At the time of Eisenhower's June visit to Denison in 1952, he was campaigning for the Republican nomination for the presidency. He stated in advance that his visit and public address there was to be non-political. In July, Eisenhower and vice-presidential running mate Richard Nixon won the Republican nomination over Robert Taft. Later that November, Eisenhower defeated Democrat Adlai Stevenson for the presidency by a landslide. Nevertheless, he did not win the votes of the citizens of Denison.

- Display the **Local Stop primary sources**.
- Facilitate a whole class discussion by asking essential questions about each resource:
 - What is this source?
 - What is its main content and purpose?
 - Who are the people involved?
 - Can you identify a time and place? If so, what are they?
 - What is the main idea or purpose of this source?
 - Should this source be considered historically significant? Why? Why not?

DBQ Activity: The Eisenhower Administration Legacy

40 minutes

Tell students that through their investigation of primary sources, they are to address this prompt:

Using the resource documents and prior knowledge, assess the overall accomplishments and shortfalls of the Eisenhower presidential administration, 1953-1961. To what extent does Eisenhower's motto, "Gently in Manner-Strongly in Deed" reflect his presidential legacy?

- Divide the class into small groups or pairs.
- Distribute to each group/pair at least one **DBQ primary source (A-I)**, and an **Eisenhower Administration summary**.
- Tell the students to analyze their documents and take notes. In an oral presentation, each pair/group is to explain
 - the name, date, and general content of the document(s),
 - the answer to the scaffolding question(s) on the document(s), and how each document addresses the prompt.
- As a homework assignment or as a classroom timed writing assignment, have students write an essay response to the prompt.

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DBQ Documents

- A: Executive Order 10443, April 7, 1953
- B: James Hagerty diary entry, February 25, 1954
- C: “Have a care, sir,” March 4, 1954
- D: “Tsk Tsk – Somebody Should Do Something About That,” April 3, 1956
- E: Eisenhower Doctrine, January 5, 1957
- F: Eisenhower’s Radio and Television Address, September 24, 1957
- G: Eisenhower looking at nose cone of an experimental missile, November 7, 1957
- H: National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958
- I: National system of interstate and defense highways, June 1958

Answer Key for DBQ Scaffolding Questions

Document A

1. The order abolished a law prohibiting employees of the Atomic Energy Commission specifically from working more than eight hours a day. Those working on projects of national defense could work over-time and would receive compensation.
2. Nuclear energy was integral to Eisenhower’s defense strategy, and the nuclear arms race played a key role in the Cold War.

Document B

1. President Eisenhower
2. Joseph McCarthy was an ultra-conservative U.S. Senator from Wisconsin who conducted a series of hearings to expose Communist sympathizers inside the government and elsewhere. The Army-McCarthy hearings were a turning point for McCarthy. He was censured by the Senate soon after.

Document C

1. Herblock (that is, the cartoonist Herbert Block) and many others criticized Eisenhower for not taking a harder stand or making a public statement against McCarthy and his actions.

Document D

1. Many criticized Eisenhower for not taking a more active leadership role sooner in domestic issues such as civil rights. For example, it was Eisenhower’s view that desegregation should take place more slowly.

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Document E

- International Communism
- Assist in the development of economic strength for the maintenance of national independence in the Middle East; Military assistance for and cooperation with nations in the Middle East; Employment of the armed forces of the United States to secure and protect the territorial integrity and political independence of countries seeking aid.

Document F

- Eisenhower ordered federal troops to assist and escort “the Little Rock Nine” to class at Little Rock Central High School.
- As President, Eisenhower claimed responsibility for upholding and enforcing Supreme Court law, despite his own or any other individual’s personal opinions about desegregation. He considered the mob’s refusal to disperse an obstruction of justice.

Document G

- This nose cone of an experimental missile had been into space and back. Eisenhower made his television address on national security a month after the Soviets’ *Sputnik I* launch.

Document H

- A civilian agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, which shall not engage in the development of weapons systems, military operations, or defense of the United States. Those responsibilities will remain with the Dept. of Defense.
- \$250,000

Document I

- Answers will vary, but could include growing dependence on automobile transportation, the economic importance of infrastructure for interstate and international commerce, and the development of a nationwide transportation network for the U.S. military.

Assessment

Evaluate student participation in group activities and class discussions as well as completion and correctness of document organizers. For assistance scoring DBQ essays, reference the AP Histories Rubric for Document-Based Questions available online at <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/rubrics-ap-histories-historical-thinking-skills.pdf> (effective Fall 2015) or visit apcentral.collegeboard.com.

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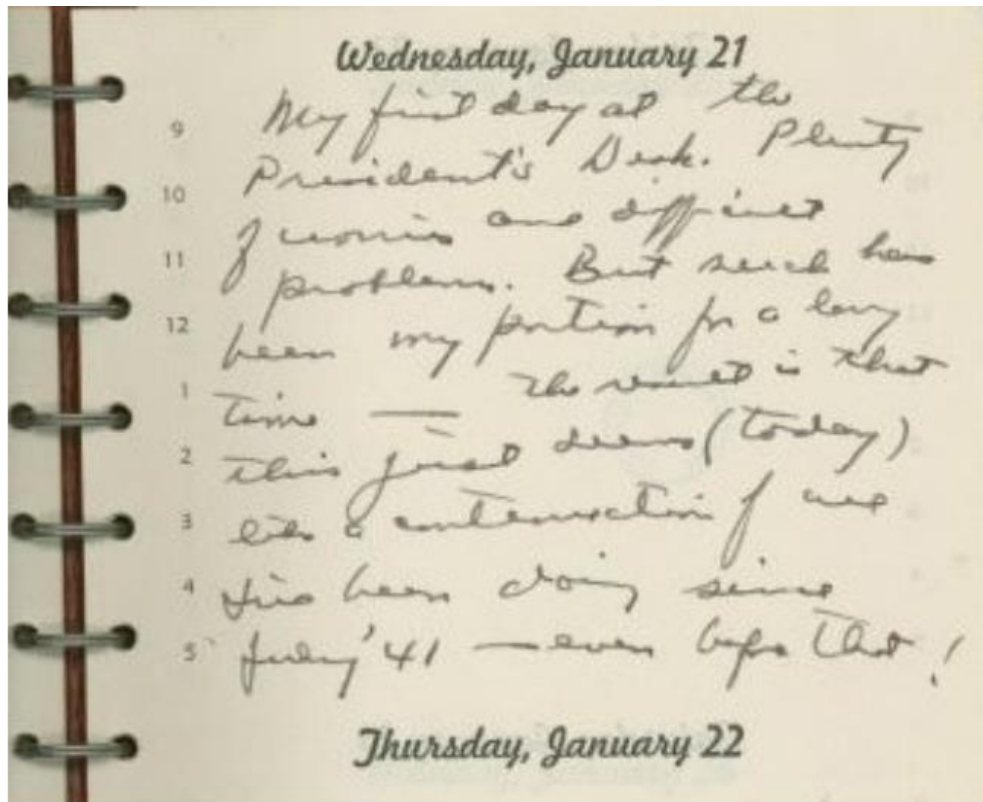
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Local Stop Activity Image



"My first day at the President's Desk. Plenty of worries and difficult problems. But such has been my portion for a long time - the result is that this just seems (today) like a continuation of all I've been doing since July '41 - even before that!"

Dwight D. Eisenhower, January 21, 1953

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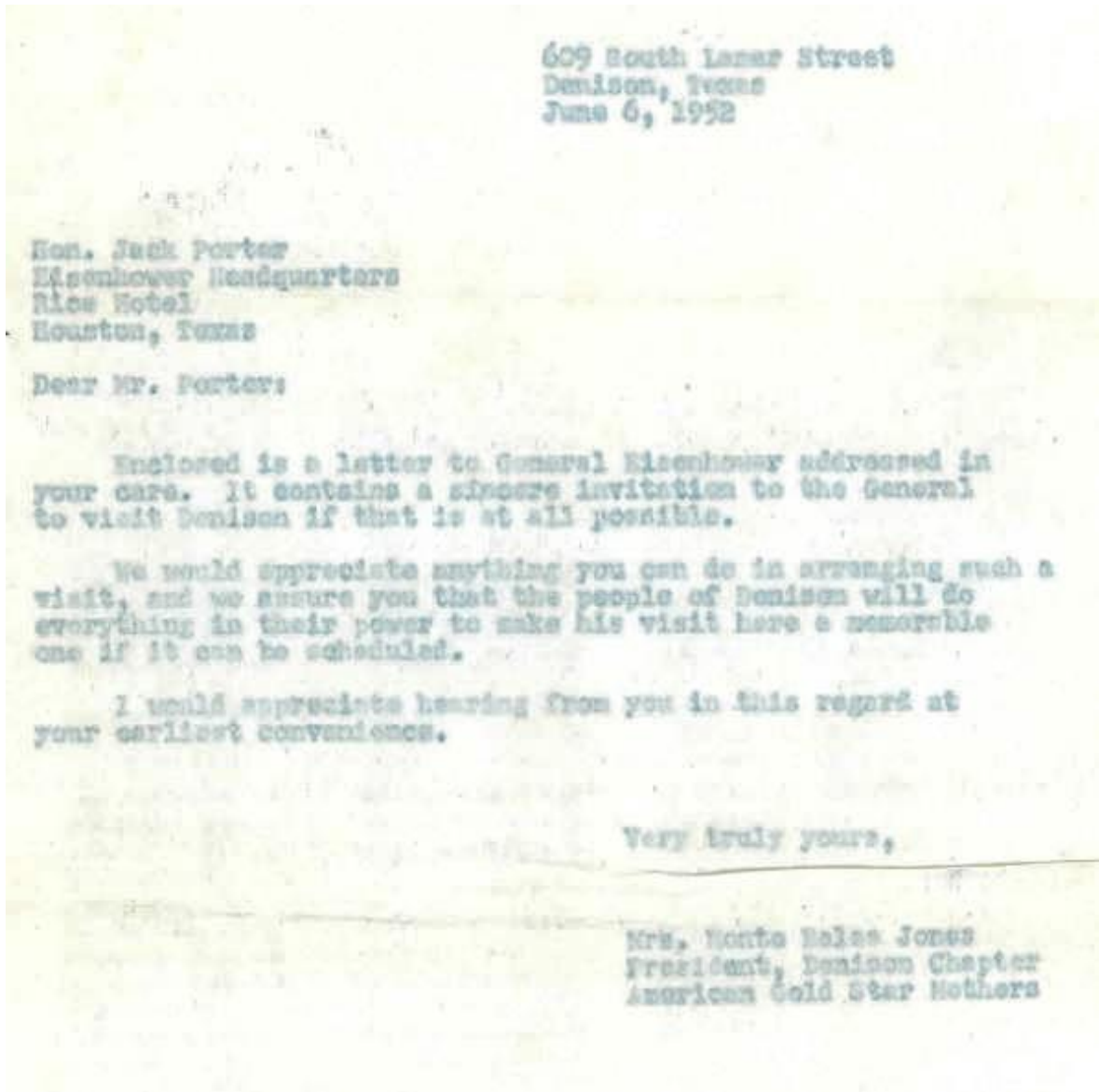
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Mr. Ray Carpenter
The Associated Press
Dallas News Building
Dallas, Texas

JACK PORTER OF HOUSTON CALLED ME TODAY TO REPORT THAT GENERAL EISENHOWER HAS ACCEPTED THE INVITATION OF THE DENISON CHAPTER OF AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS TO REVISIT THE SCENE OF HIS BIRTH. HE WILL ARRIVE IN DENISON BY PLANE AROUND NOON SATURDAY, JUNE 21. WE WILL MEET HIM BY MOTORCADE AND ESCORT HIM TO THE EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE FOR A RECEPTION. ~~THE~~ ~~IF THE GENERAL IS WILLING,~~ SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL'S WISHES, ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR A PUBLIC ADDRESS. ~~WE WILL ARRANGE FOR A PUBLIC SPEECH.~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

WE ISSUED THE INVITATION TO THE GENERAL SEVERAL DAYS AGO,
ASKING THAT HE AND MRS. EISENHOWER COME TO DENISON AT THEIR ~~EARLIEST~~ *first*
CONVENIENCE. *flexibility*.

MRS. MONTE BALES JONES, PRESIDENT
DENISON CHAPTER, AMERICAN GOLD
STAR MOTHERS.

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Local Stop Activity Image

OFFICE OF DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

New York, New York
June 12, 1952

Dear Mrs. Jones:

Thank you so much for your thoughtful telegram.

General Eisenhower and I are looking forward with great pleasure at being with you in Texas.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Mamie and Edwin Eisenhower

Mrs. M. B. Jones
President
Denison Chapter
American Gold Star Mothers
Denison, Texas

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Citation: Anderson, LeRoy M. *The Denison Press* (Denison, Tex.), Vol. 23, No. 52, Ed. 1 Friday, June 20, 1952, newspaper, June 20, 1952; Denison, Texas. (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph735956/: accessed April 21, 2017), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Grayson County Frontier Village

Gold Star Mothers Are Hostesses For Gen. and Mrs. Eisenhower

Mrs. Monte Bales Jones and every member of the Denison chapter of Gold Star Mothers which she heads, are ready and waiting to welcome their distinguished guests, General and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, when they arrive here Saturday noon.

Mrs. Jones, whose invitation to the general brings him here as the guest of the Gold Star Mothers, will present a gold key, personal gift from herself, to Mrs. Eisenhower upon her arrival, that will open the door of her husband's birthplace, which has become a shrine in Denison.

The Gold Star mothers and city dignitaries will meet the visitors as they land at Perrin Air Force Base and escort them to the city and the Eisenhower Home where they have prepared a heartfelt welcome for both. The festivities at the home will close at noon after which the general will be driven to Forest Park where he will deliver a non-political address. From Denison, General and Mrs. Eisenhower will go on to Dallas for his scheduled press meetings and conferences with Texas and Louisiana delegations. His schedule calls for a brief stop in Denton on the way.

This Denison visit, Mrs. Jones keeps repeating, is not a political one. The general and his wife are coming to pay a brief visit to the town and the home of his birth and to honor those Gold Star Mothers who asked him to come.



TOO MANY WINDMILLS

You have heard of the Scotch idea of the farmer with a number of windmills on the place,



fearing there was not enough wind to operate all of them, and in a feverish moment of economical inclination, ordered six of them pulled down. Which

recalls something that happened to the phones of the city which are, or were, being used in the city hall, police station and fire department. Some one of the official family ordered that six of them, in the interest of economy, be pulled out, which the phone company promptly did. Whether this was a "punitive measure" as has been said of the phone company in not installing the dial system at this time or not, does not matter. The phones were ordered out. Since it is known the city is in a fight with the

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Local Stop Activity Image

Photograph and correspondence courtesy of Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site.



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DBQ Document A

Citation: Dwight D. Eisenhower: "Executive Order 10443—Suspension of the Eight-Hour Law as to Laborers and Mechanics Employed by the Atomic Energy Commission on Public Work Essential to the National Defense," April 7, 1953. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*. <http://www.presidency>

Executive Order 10443, April 7, 1953

WHEREAS I find that as to public work essential to the national defense being performed by the Atomic Energy Commission an extraordinary emergency exists:

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by section 1 of the said act of August 1, 1892, as amended by the said act of March 3, 1913, and as President of the United States, I hereby suspend for the duration of the national emergency proclaimed on December 16, 1950, by Proclamation No. 2914 the above-mentioned provisions of law prohibiting more than eight hours of labor in any one calendar day by laborers and mechanics employed by the Government of the United States as to all work performed by laborers and mechanics employed by the Atomic Energy Commission on any public work which is essential to the national defense: Provided, That the wages of all laborers and mechanics so employed shall be computed on a basic day rate of eight hours of work with overtime to be paid at a rate not less than time and one-half for all hours of work in excess of eight hours in any one day.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

- What is the main idea and purpose of this executive order?
- What was the significance of atomic energy to the U.S. in the 1950s?

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DBQ Document B

https://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/research/online_documents/mccarthyism/1954_02_25_Hagerty.pdf

James Hagerty diary entry on the Army-McCarthy hearings, February 25, 1954

Pres. very mad and getting fed up - it's his Army and he doesn't like McCarthy's tactics at all = Stevens and Kyes joined Nixon and all of us at 4 P.M = worked 'til 5:30 on statement = cleared it with Pres. who made it stronger and then released it in joint conference in my office

Quotes - Ike on subject: "This guy McCarthy is going to get into trouble over this. I'm not going to take this one lying down" - "my friends tell me it won't be long in this Army stuff before McCarthy starts using my name instead of Stevens. He's ambitious. He wants to be President. He's the last guy in the world who'll ever get there, if I have anything to say."

- According to this diary entry, whose army is it?
- Who was Joe McCarthy? What was the significance of the Army-McCarthy hearings?

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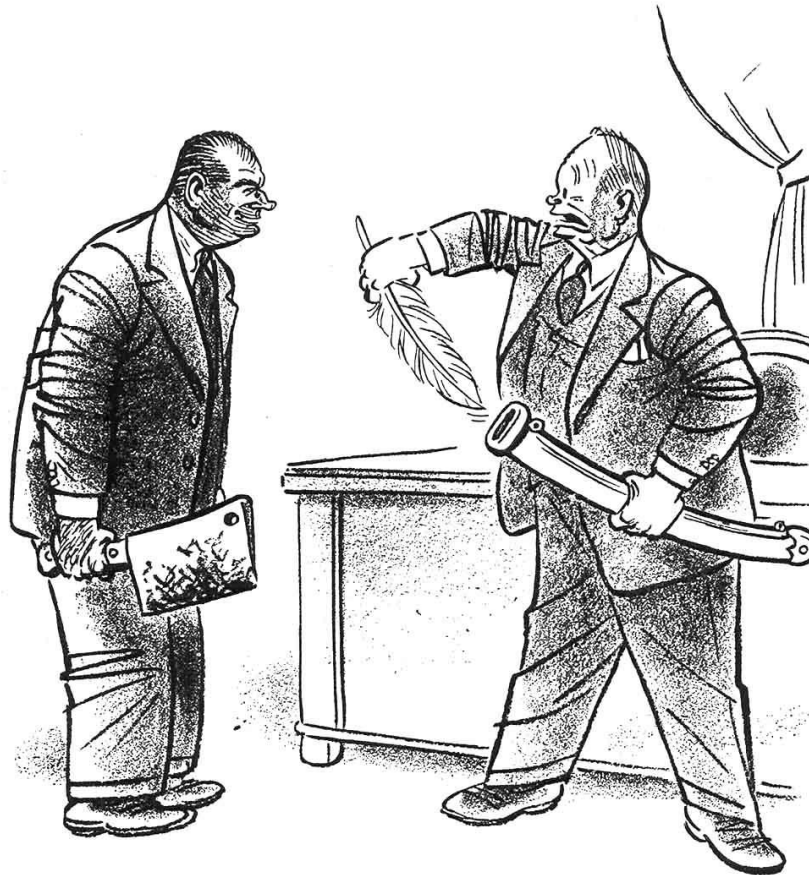
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DBQ Document C

1954 Herblock Cartoon, © The Herb Block Foundation

“Have a care, sir” (McCarthy and Eisenhower), March 4, 1954

“Have A Care, Sir”



- What is the main idea of this political cartoon?

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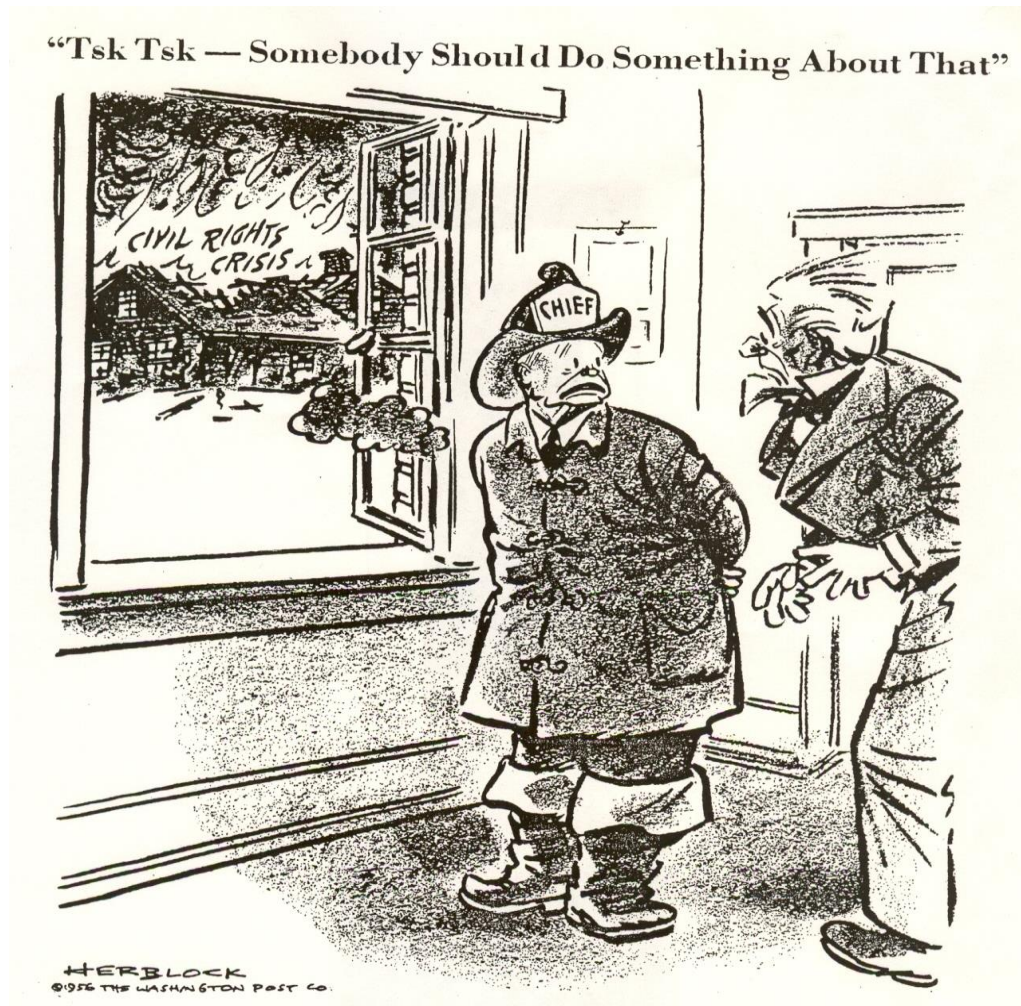
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DBQ Document D

A 1956 Herblock Cartoon, © The Herb Block Foundation

“Tsk Tsk – Somebody Should Do Something About That,” April 3, 1956



- What is the main idea of this political cartoon?

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DBQ Document E

Citation: Dwight D. Eisenhower: "Special Message to the Congress on the Situation in the Middle East.," January 5, 1957. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*. <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=11007>

Eisenhower Doctrine as proposed by Dwight D. Eisenhower in a “Special Message to the Congress on the Situation in the Middle East,” January 5, 1957

Thus, the United States through the joint action of the President and the Congress, or, in the case of treaties, the Senate, has manifested in many endangered areas its purpose to support free and independent governments--and peace--against external menace, notably the menace of International Communism. Thereby we have helped to maintain peace and security during a period of great danger. It is now essential that the United States should manifest through joint action of the President and the Congress our determination to assist those nations of the Mid East area, which desire that assistance.

The action which I propose would have the following features.

It would, first of all, authorize the United States to cooperate with and assist any nation or group of nations in the general area of the Middle East in the development of economic strength dedicated to the maintenance of national independence.

It would, in the second place, authorize the Executive to undertake in the same region programs of military assistance and cooperation with any nation or group of nations which desires such aid.

It would, in the third place, authorize such assistance and cooperation to include the employment of the armed forces of the United States to secure and protect the territorial integrity and political independence of such nations, requesting such aid, against overt armed aggression from any nation controlled by International Communism.

- **What specific menace to independent nations does this document identify?**
- **Summarize the three features of this proposed action.**

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DBQ Document F

Citation: Dwight D. Eisenhower's Radio and Television Address to the American People on the Situation in Little Rock in Steven F. Lawson and Charles Payne, *Debating the Civil Rights Movement, 1945–1968* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1998), 60–64.

Eisenhower's Radio and Television Address to the American People on the Situation in Little Rock, September 24, 1957

...I have today issued an Executive Order directing the use of troops under Federal authority to aid in the execution of Federal law at Little Rock, Arkansas. This became necessary when my Proclamation of yesterday was not observed, and the obstruction of justice still continues.

It is important that the reasons for my action be understood by all our citizens. As you know, the Supreme Court of the United States has decided that separate public educational facilities for the races are inherently unequal and therefore compulsory school segregation laws are unconstitutional.

Our personal opinions about the decision have no bearing on the matter of enforcement; the responsibility and authority of the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution are very clear...

- **What issue was this executive order in response to?**
- **What might you infer about Eisenhower's personal opinion about the desegregation of public schools? Why?**

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DBQ Document G

Leffler, Warren K, photographer. [President Dwight Eisenhower looking at a nose cone of an experimental missile which had been into space and back, during a television speech in the White House about science and national security]. Washington D.C, Nov. 7 1957. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2012649167/>. (Accessed April 09, 2017.)

President Eisenhower looking at nose cone of missile, November 7, 1957



- What was the significance of this object?
- Explain the significance of the date of this photograph and the launch date of *Sputnik I*.

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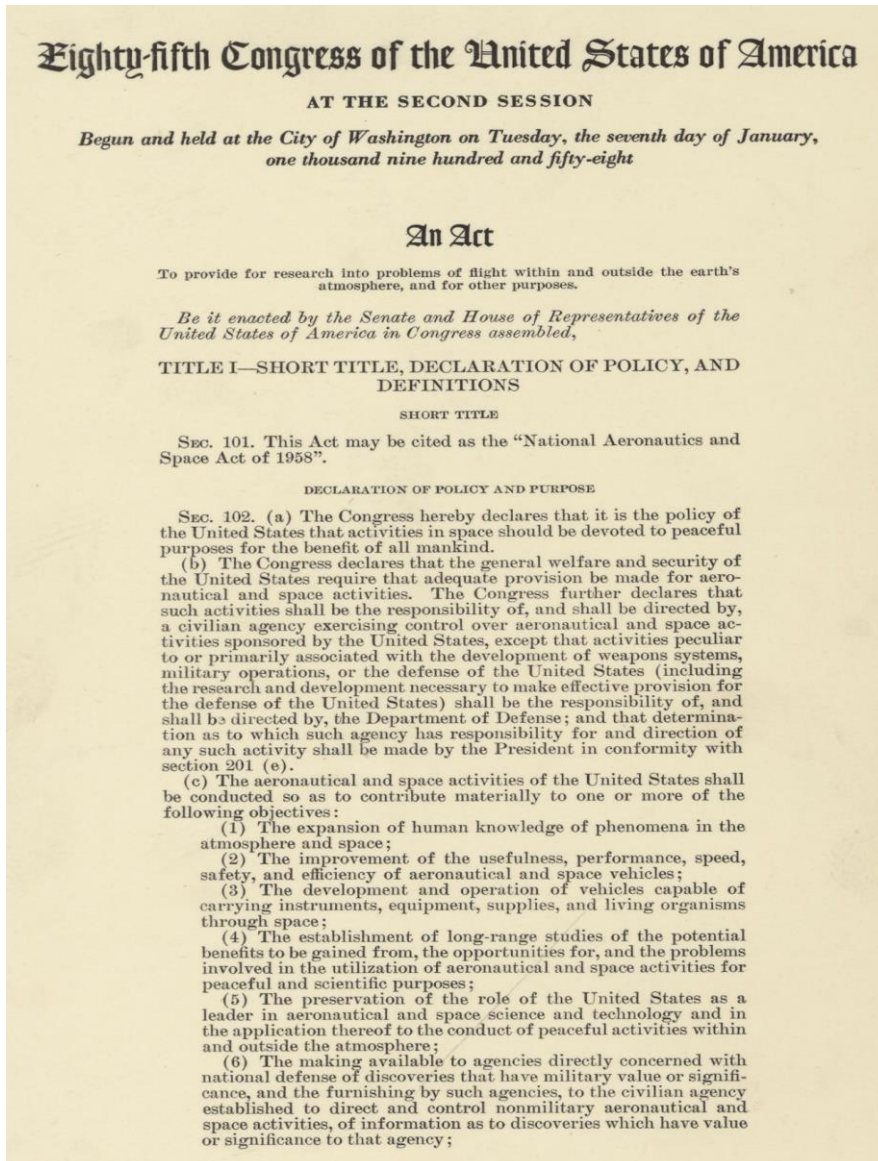
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DBQ Document H, part 1

Citation: Act of July 29, 1958 (National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958), Public Law 85-568, 72 STAT 426, which provided for research into the problems of flight within and outside the earth's atmosphere., 07/29/1958 (National Archives Identifier: 299868); Enrolled Acts and Resolutions of Congress, 1789 - 1996; General Records of the United States Government, 1778 - 1992; Record Group 11; National Archives and Records Administration--Southwest Region (Fort Worth, TX)

National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958



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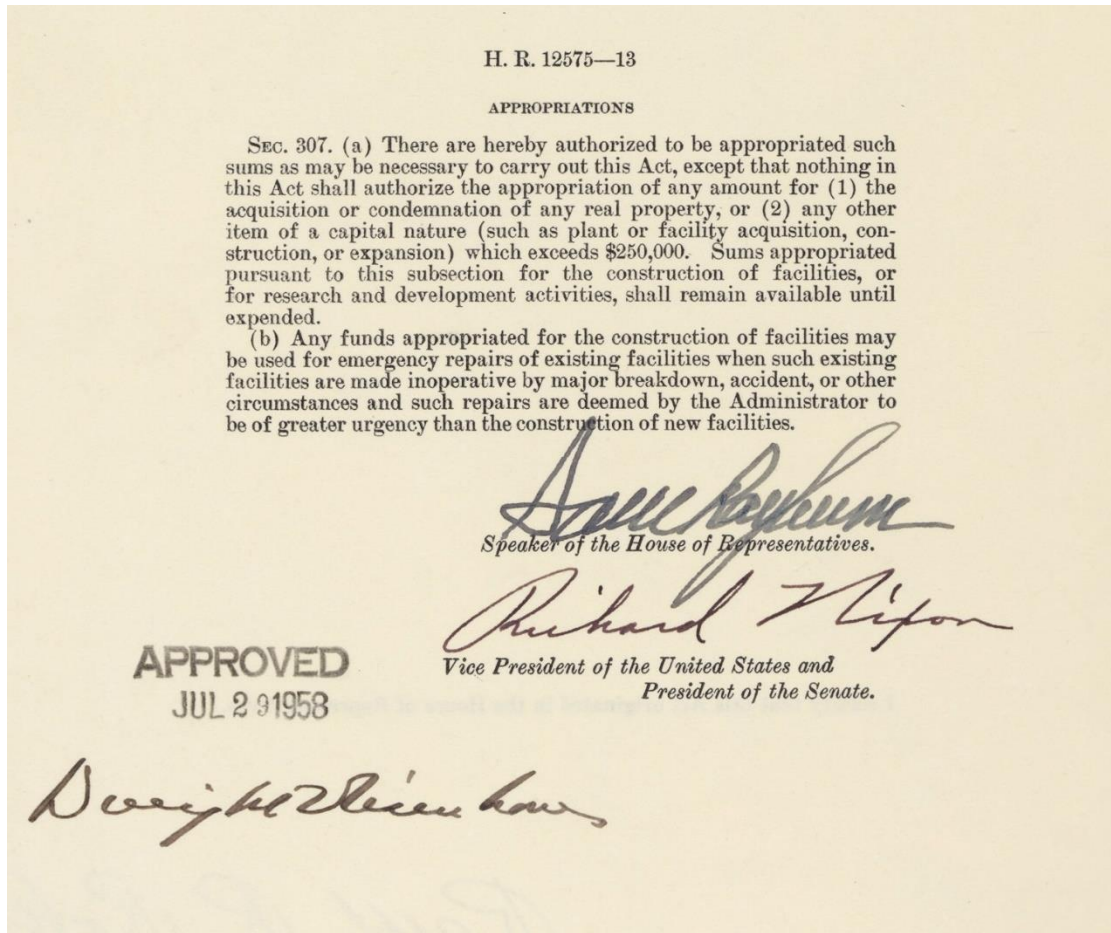
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DBQ Document H, part 2



- What agency does Congress establish in Sec 102 (b)? What is its area of responsibility as compared to the Department of Defense?
- What appropriations limit was put on the purchase of real estate or the building of facilities?

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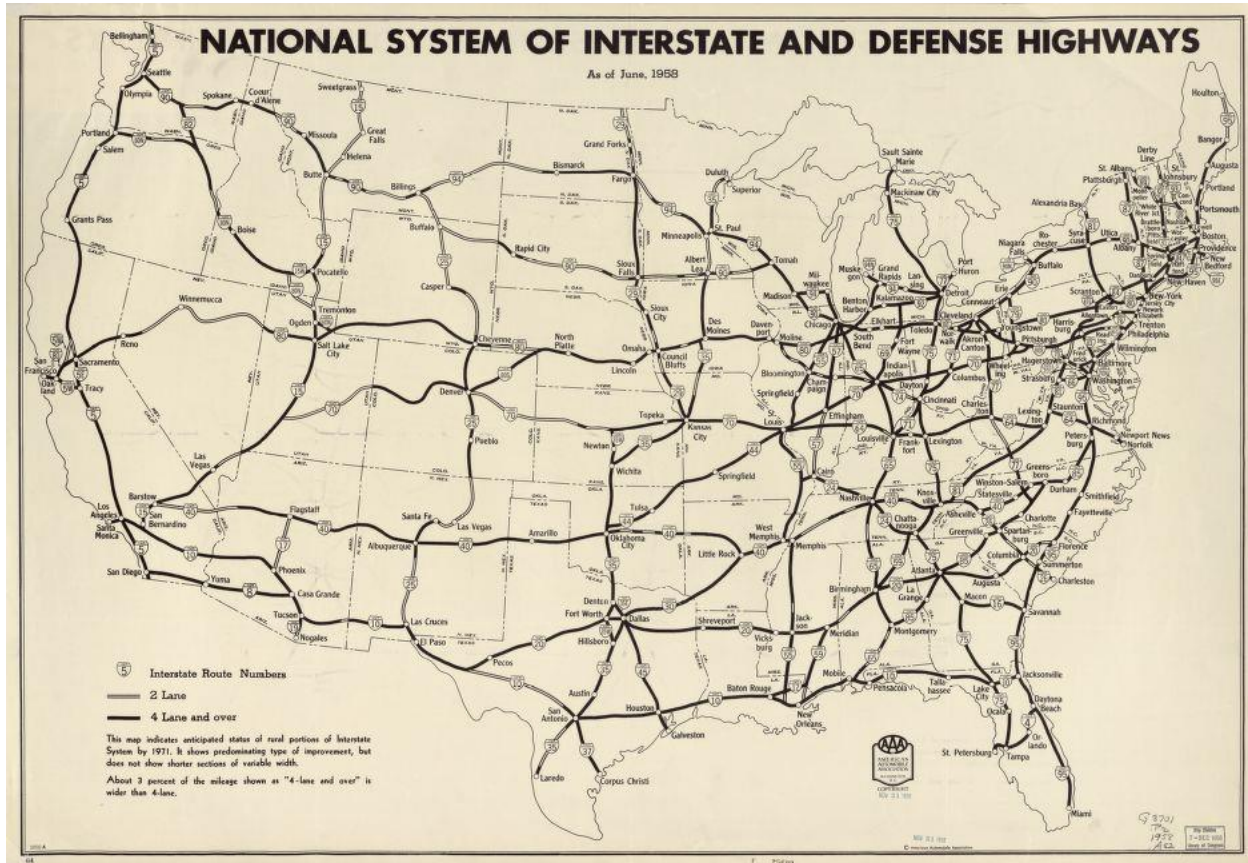
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DBQ Document I

Citation: American Automobile Association. National system of interstate and defense highways: as of June, 1958. Washington, D.C.: The Association, 1958. Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2011593044/>. Accessed April 21, 2017

National system of interstate and defense highways, June 1958



- What were the advantages of developing an interstate highway system?

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DBQ Document: The Eisenhower Presidential Administration

Dwight D. “Ike” Eisenhower practiced what has been described as “moderate Republicanism.” This pursuit of the “Middle Way” allowed him to secure many victories in a Congress held by Democrats for six of the eight years of his term.

This approach was critical in putting the nation’s budget on a sound footing by resisting tax cuts and by reducing expenditures, which further fueled the expanding post-WWII economy of the 1950s. This practical leadership also helped strengthen existing programs, such as Social Security, and launched the single largest public works program in U.S. history: the ambitious building of the interstate highways (now named the Eisenhower System of Interstate Highways).

In the area of civil rights, Eisenhower completed the desegregation of the armed forces begun under the Truman Administration. In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. In 1957, when mobs in Arkansas prevented the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School, Eisenhower sent federal troops to escort nine African American students, who came to be known as the “the Little Rock Nine,” to class and said he had a solemn obligation to enforce the law. He signed the Civil Rights Act of 1957. This law, while imperfect, began the long road to push for further change in federal protection for voting rights.

President Eisenhower was criticized for not taking a public stand against Senator Joseph McCarthy (Wis.-R) during his vicious attacks on American citizens suspected of Communist sympathies and activities. President Eisenhower considered any public display of political defamation, even against the rogue senator, to be beneath the office of the presidency.

The most immediate concern facing Eisenhower after the 1952 election were the problems America faced in its global struggle against communism during the Cold War. The Korean War had turned into a bloody stalemate, and the president was determined to push for an honorable peace. His firmness persuaded the communists to accept armistice terms. In 1953, President Eisenhower increased defense reliance on nuclear strength, in a policy known as “massive retaliation,” to prevent the outbreak of war.

In his foreign policy, Eisenhower supported the actions of NATO, the United Nations, reduction of tariffs, and promotion of free trade. He worked to transition former nations from colonial empires to the non-communist world community while retaining the loyalty and support of America’s friends. Eisenhower also “waged peace” and initiated an easing of tensions in U.S.-Soviet relations by inviting Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev to America for a summit. He steered the nation toward a consensus that America had a role to play in the world.

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When the world's first artificial satellite, *Sputnik I*, was launched by the Soviets on October 4, 1957, the nation panicked. In 1958, Eisenhower signed legislation creating the civilian National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). *Explorer I*, the first American satellite, was launched in 1958.

Eisenhower's leadership was defined by both a firmness of purpose and a commitment to compromise. As he wrote a former colleague, "In my view, a fair, decent, and reasonable dealing with men, a reasonable recognition that views may diverge, a constant seeking for a high and strong ground on which to work together,



Bachrach, Fabian, photographer. [Dwight D. Eisenhower, three-quarter length portrait, seated, facing front / Fabian Bachrach]. , ca. 1952. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/93511989/>. Accessed April 10, 2017.

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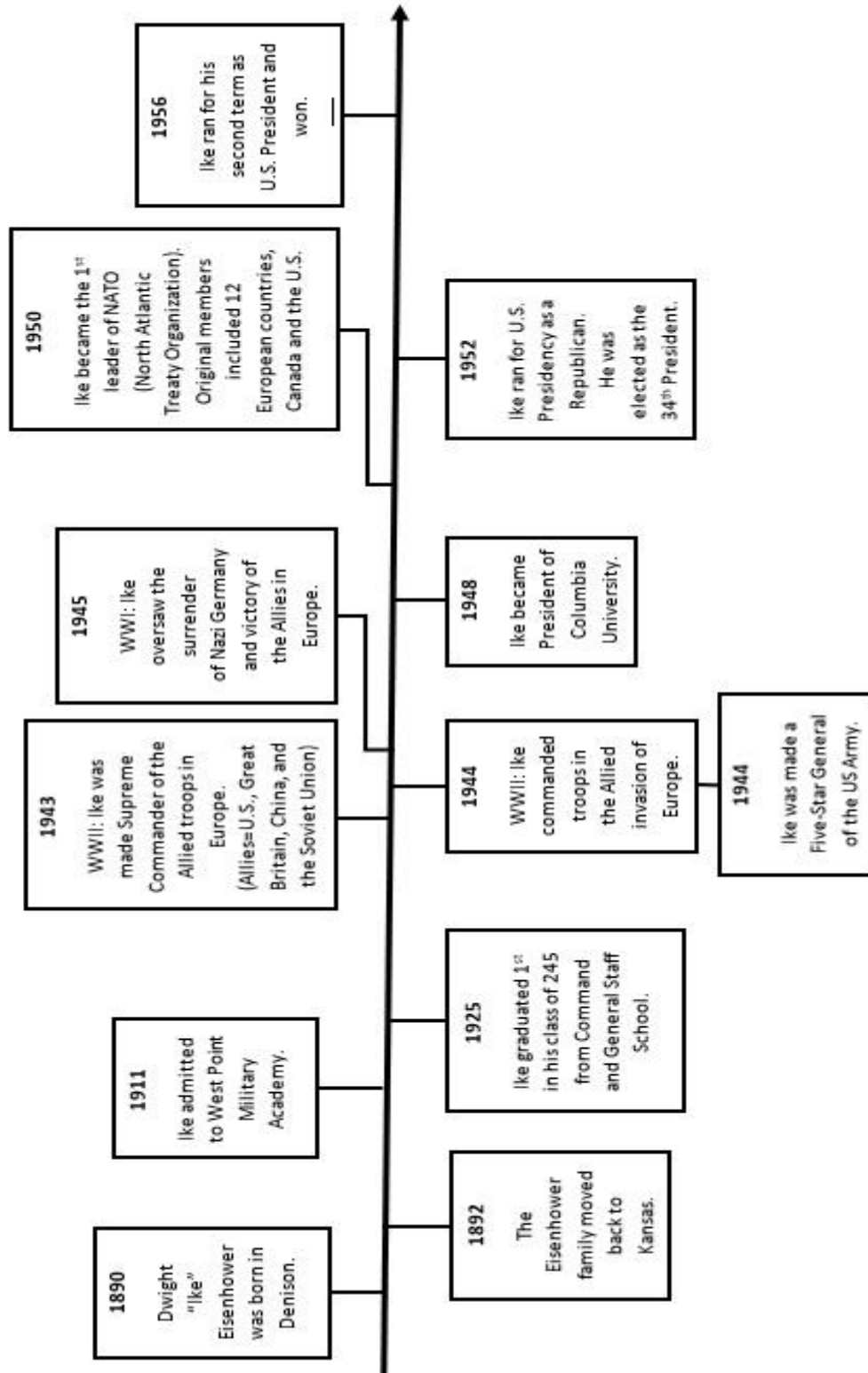
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Resource Image: Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Timeline



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Additional Resources

Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum – National Archives

<https://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/>

Eisenhower National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service)

<https://www.nps.gov/Eise/>

America's Story from America's Library by the Library of Congress

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/eisenhower/aa_eisenhower_subj.html

Dwight D. Eisenhower: A Resource Guide by the Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/presidents/eisenhower/related.html>

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Site Visit Recommendations

- Complete the pre-visit lesson or other introductory lessons prior to your field trip.
- Divide students into small groups, each with an adult chaperone.
- Make sure students bring pencils. Pens and markers are not allowed in the exhibits.

Information

To schedule a site visit field trip for your students, please call 903-465-8908.

For admission prices and hours of operation, please visit us online at <http://visiteisenhowerbirthplace.com>.

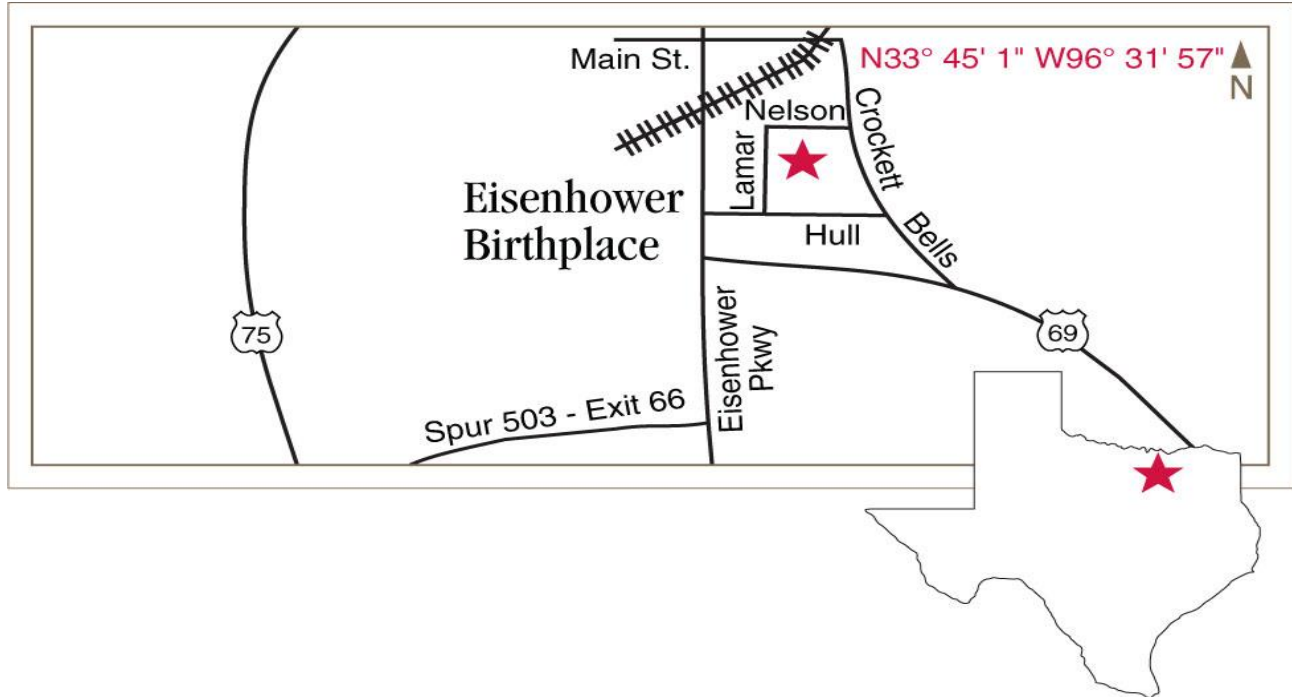
Contact Us

609 S. Lamar Ave.

Denison, TX 75021

903-465-8908

eisenhower-birthplace@thc.texas.gov



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DENISON, TEXAS 75021
P 903-465-8908 F 903-465-8988

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